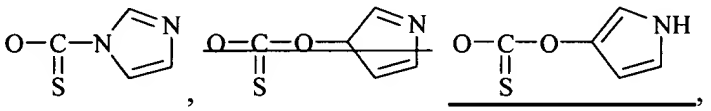
Amendments to the Claims:

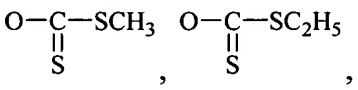
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A process for the preparation of a 2'-deoxy-β-L-nucleoside comprising the steps of:

a) selectively activating a 2'-hydroxyl of a β-L-nucleoside to form an activated nucleoside substituted at the 2'-position with a substituent selected from the group consisting of the following:





$O\text{-}S(=O)_n\text{-}R^5$ or $O\text{-}C(=O)\text{-}R^5$;

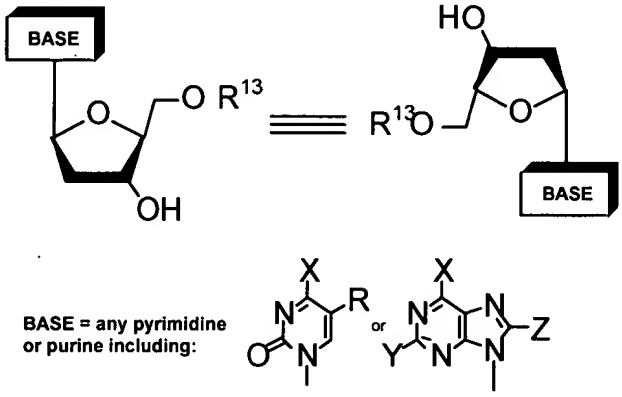
wherein n is 1 or 2 and R^5 is a hydrogen, an alkyl or aryl moiety; and

b) reducing the product of step (a) [[a]] with a reducing agent to form a 2'-deoxy-L-nucleoside.

Claim 2 The process of claim 1 wherein the reducing agent is tri-butyltin-hydride.

Claims 3 – 43 (Cancelled)

Claim 44 (currently amended): The process of claim 1~~, 3 or 8~~ wherein the ~~preparation of~~ 2'-deoxy-β-L-nucleoside is a compound of the following formula (A):



(A)

wherein

X and Y are independently H, OH, OR, SH, SR^1, NH_2, NHR^1 or NR^1R^2;

Z is hydrogen, halogen, CN or NH_2;

R is hydrogen, lower alkyl, aralkyl, halogen, NO_2, NH_2, NHR^3, NR^3R^4, OH, OR^3, SH, SR^3, CN, $CONH_2$, $CSNH_2$, CO_2H, CO_2R^3, CH_2CO_2H, $CH_2CO_2R^3$, $CH{=}CHR^3$, $CH_2CH{=}CHR^3$ or $C{\equiv}CR^3$;

R^1, R^2, R^3 and R^4 are independently a lower alkyl, e.g., methyl, ethyl, propyl, butyl, and alkyl possessing 6 or less carbons, in cyclic, branched or straight chains, unsubstituted or substituted wherein the alkyl bears one, two, or more substituents, including but not limited to, amino, carboxyl, hydroxy and phenyl;

R^{13} is hydrogen, alkyl, acyl, phosphate (monophosphate, diphosphate, triphosphate, or stabilized phosphate) or silyl; and

wherein the process further comprises the step of ~~comprising~~ condensing 2-O-acetyl-1,3,5-tri-O-benzoyl-β-L-ribofuranose with a purine or pyrimidine base, followed by

(a') selectively activating the 2'-OH via ~~selective halogenation or~~ thiocarbonylation ~~at the 2' OH group~~ and

(b') reducing the product of step (a') with a reducing agent to obtain the 2'-deoxy-β-L-nucleoside of formula (A) ~~subsequent reduction~~.

Claim 45 (Cancelled)

Claim 46 (Cancelled)

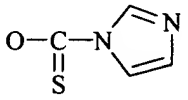
Claim 47 (currently amended): The process of claim 44 ~~1, 3 or 8~~ wherein the preparation of the compound of ~~the above~~ formula (A) further comprises ~~condensing a 2,3,5-tri-O-protected-L-xylose derivative followed by removal of the 2' OH group by either halogenation or thiocarbonylation procedure. The~~ the step of epimerizing the 3'-OH group ~~is then of epimerized~~ to obtain the desired 2'-deoxy-β-L-nucleosides.

Claims 48-55 (Cancelled).

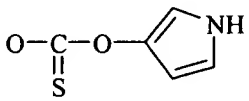
Claim 56 (new): The process of claim 1, wherein the β-L-nucleoside comprises a purine base.

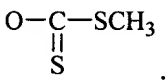
Claim 57 (new): The process of claim 1, wherein the β-L-nucleoside comprises a pyrimidine base.

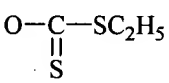
Claim 58 (new): The process of claim 1, wherein step a) comprises activating a 2'-hydroxyl of a β-L-nucleoside to form an activated nucleoside substituted at the 2'-position with



Claim 59 (new): The process of claim 1, wherein step a) comprises activating a 2'-hydroxyl of a β-L-nucleoside to form an activated nucleoside substituted at the 2'-position with



Claim 60 (new): The process of claim 1, wherein step a) comprises activating a 2'-hydroxyl of a β-L-nucleoside to form an activated nucleoside substituted at the 2'-position with 

Claim 61 (new): The process of claim 1, wherein step a) comprises activating a 2'-hydroxyl of a β-L-nucleoside to form an activated nucleoside substituted at the 2'-position with 

Claim 62 (new): The process of claim 1, wherein step a) comprises activating a 2'-hydroxyl of a β-L-nucleoside to form an activated nucleoside substituted at the 2'-position with O-C(=O)-R^5.

Claim 63 (new): The process of claim 62, wherein R^5 is hydrogen.

Claim 64 (new): The process of claim 62, wherein R^5 is alkyl.

Claim 65 (new): The process of claim 62, wherein R^5 is aryl.

Claim 66 (new): The process of claim 44, wherein the base is a pyrimidine selected from the group consisting of uracil, thymine, cytosine, 2,4-dioxy-6-carboxy pyrimidine, 5-fluorocytosine, 5-methylcytosine, 6-azapyrimidine, 6-azacytosine, 2- and/or 4-mercaptopyrimidine, 5-halouracil, 5-fluorouracil, C^5-alkylpyrimidines, C^5-benzylpyrimidines, C^5-halopyrimidines, C^5-vinylpyrimidines, C^5-acetylenic pyrimidine, C^5-acyl pyrimidine, C^5-amidopyrimidine, C^5-cyanopyrimidine, C^5-nitorpyrimidine, C^5-aminopyrimidine, 5-azacytidinyl, and 5-azauracilyl.

Claim 67 (new): The process of claim 44, wherein the base is a purine selected from the group consisting of adenine, guanine, hypoxanthine, xanthine, N^6-alkylpurines, N^6-acylpurines (wherein acyl is C(=O)(alkyl, alkylaryl, or arylalkyl), N^6-benzylpurine, N^6-halopurine, N^6-vinylpurine, N^6-acetylenic purine, N^6-acyl purine, N^6-hydroxyalkyl purine, N^6-

thioalkyl purine, N^2-alkylpurines, N^2-alkyl-6-thiopurines, C^5-hydroxyalkyl purine, N^2-alkylpurines, 2,6, diaminopurine, and 6-chloropurine.